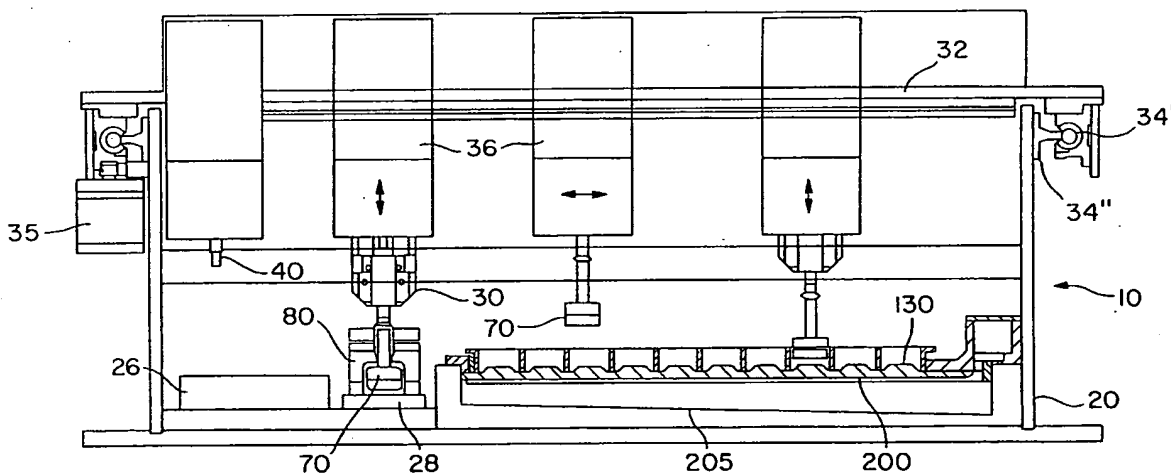




INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification ⁶ : B01L 11/00	A3	(11) International Publication Number: WO 95/10035 (43) International Publication Date: 13 April 1995 (13.04.95)
(21) International Application Number: PCT/US94/11090 (22) International Filing Date: 29 September 1994 (29.09.94) (30) Priority Data: 08/129,243 29 September 1993 (29.09.93) US (71) Applicant: BIOGENEX LABORATORIES [US/US]; 4600 Norris Canyon Road, San Ramon, CA 94583 (US). (72) Inventors: TSEUNG, Ken; 4018 Allyson Terrace, Fremont, CA 94538 (US). WONG, Wai, Bun; 3818 Northumberland Terrace, Fremont, CA 94556 (US). JONES, Christopher, Michael; 1573 Springbrook Road, Walnut Creek, CA 94596 (US). KALRA, Krishan, L.; 4515 Kingswood Drive, Danville, CA 94506 (US). (74) Agents: CSERR, Luann et al.; Cooley Godward Castro Huddleson & Tatum, 4th floor, Five Palo Alto Square, Palo Alto, CA 94306-2155 (US).		(81) Designated States: JP, European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE). Published <i>With international search report.</i> <i>Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the</i> <i>claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of</i> <i>amendments.</i> (88) Date of publication of the international search report: 1 June 1995 (01.06.95)

(54) Title: AUTOMATED STAINING APPARATUS AND METHOD



(57) Abstract

An automated microscope slide staining apparatus has a moveable arm (30) which carries a wash/blow head (70) having an elongate dispensing slit for supplying wash liquid or drying air across the width of the slides (130) positioned in a heater block (200). In use, water is supplied over the surface to be treated by the wash/blow head (70) and reagents are supplied in a pattern that would not completely cover the surface to be treated and allowed to diffuse through the water to disperse.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US94/11090

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(6) : B01L 11/00

US CL : Please See Extra Sheet.

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 73/864.01; 118/300; 422/63, 65, 67, 99, 100; 424/3; 427/4; 436/46, 54, 63, 174, 180

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US, A, 4,224,277 (MACHO ET AL) 23 September 1980.	1-30
A	US, A, 5,009,185 (STOKES ET AL) 23 April 1991.	1-30
A	US, A, 5,231,029 (WOOTTON ET AL) 27 July 1993.	1-30
A	US, A, 4,305,722 (KUNZ) 15 December 1981.	25-30
A	US, A, 5,225,325 (MILLER ET AL) 06 July 1993.	25-30
X	US, A, 4,042,999 (TRIANTAFYLLOU) 23 August 1977, see figure 9.	31-33

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. ☐ See patent family annex.

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P document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed		

Date of the actual completion of the international search

01 APRIL 1995

Date of mailing of the international search report

18 APR 1995

Name and mailing address of the ISA/US
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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORTII. national application No.
PCT/US94/11090

C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	FISHER SCIENTIFIC CATALOG, published 1988, pages 168-169, see "Flame Spreaders" and "Burner Wing Top for Glass Bending".	31-33

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US94/11090

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER:

US CL :

73/864.01; 118/300; 422/63, 65, 67, 99, 100; 424/3; 427/4; 436/46, 54, 63, 174, 180